

**ALLENDALE COUNTY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MONDAY – FEBRUARY 27, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.
ALLENDALE-FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

The Allendale County Schools Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting was held on **Monday, February 27, 2012**. At **6:00 p.m.** the Board went into executive session to discuss personnel. The meeting was held at Allendale-Fairfax High School in the Multi-Purpose Room. The news media was notified and present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlie Cave
Timothy Hall, Vice Chairman
Willie Priester, Chairman
Valaree Smith, Secretary

ABSENT: Cheryl Mole

FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE: Dr. Harold McClain, Superintendent
Kedra Rivers, Director of Personnel
Charlie Tillotson, Interim Director of Finance
Patricia W. Pringle, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Priester called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: The Board held a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hall moved to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all.

GOOD NEWS

AFHS Boys and Girls Basketball Teams: Coach Ford asked the Coaches and Teams to come up front to be recognized. The Girls finished the season with a 12 and 12 record and won a Christmas tournament in Blackville at the Hawk Invitational. They lost in the 1st round of the State playoffs to Baptist Hill. The Girls are coached by Coach Lee. The Boys Team had a 16 and 17 overall record. They won the 1st regional championship since 2001. They are coached by Coach Brandyburg. About 9 boys from the team will be back next year. Coach Ford said a young man committed to Clemson University and he wanted to give the Board a token of appreciation

for allowing them to travel to the various All Star Games. Ronnie Geohaghan thanked God for everything and being selected out of all the players in the world and playing against some of the best football players in the country. He also thanked the Board, community, principal and coaches. Mr. Hall thanked Coach Ford, Lee and Brandyburg and others for the dedication of hours working with the young people and thanks for the great job they are doing.

Clean Sweep Award: Ms. Brooker presented the Clean Sweep Award for the month of February to Allendale Elementary School.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Mark Lott presented from the Big 7 a certificate given to Allendale County Schools for being in support of the Boys and Girls Club. The award was given out at the banquet on Saturday evening. The Big 7 is a non-profit organization in Barnwell, SC. A year ago the Boys and Girls Club closed so they got together and made an effort to re-organize the clubs in Barnwell and Allendale. Big7association.org is their website.

SCSBA Annual Convention – February 23-26, 2012 – Board Report: Ms. Smith attended the conference in Myrtle Beach and outlined: 1) in schools the main focus should be the children; 2) trust between the board members and superintendent is important. They have some things to work on in Allendale; 3) stop talking about the negative, start saying good things. Come and taste a little bit of Allendale, we are one of the best school districts around. No one knows who you are, talk positive.

Mr. Hall outlined: 1) in successful districts communication comes from top to the bottom and bottom to the top; 2) collaboration – Stephen Covey – discipline went down, once the supt. went out into the businesses and invited them in, they did and a lot of positive came from this; 3) technology – Beaufort have virtual summer school – students do not have to leave home. Teachers are posting clips on YouTube and students know before they come in what to expect. The start-up cost may be expensive, but in the long run it outweighs the costs.

Chairman Priester outlined: 1) the importance of public education, which is the bridge to success for the community, state and the students; 2) the caring attitude that should be presented at the school – one speaker got an email 20 years later about the impression he left on a student; 3) this was one of the best conferences in many years – every speaker weaved the thread on public education. We must be ambassadors for public education in our communities, church, stores, etc.

PRESENTATIONS BEFORE THE BOARD

Healthy Learners – Ms. Pauling-Jones, Executive Director: Mr. Ken Hyatt, Administrator for Allendale County Hospital and the Nursing Facility in Fairfax. He has been on the Board of Trustees for the last 1-1/2 years at Healthy Learners. Allendale County Hospital became owners of Laffitte & Warren and Carolina Medical Associates Office, and have partnered with Healthy Learns in serving students and providing some of the basic primary needs of the students.

Ms. Shelly Thomas, (recognized student liaison Ms. Gwen Walker) outlined: 1) provided services to over 750 students since 2005; 2) that is about 7,000 different services for the same students who need various services; 3) thanks to the school nurses and schools for their support. Ms. Pauling-Jones (handout in Board packet) outlined: 1) Healthy Learners is a non-profit group, and with the current economy grant funding is cut and they made adjustments in staff hours; 2) asking for financial funding from the District, ACS believes in Healthy Learners; 3) consider providing with an amount you deemed feasible – so they can say to outside sources Allendale is partnering and collaborating with them.

Facility Use Requests – Mr. Joey Espinosa: information provided in the Board packets. Please consider the 2 requests separately: 1) sports camp over spring break – students are not in school, but parents are still working; 2) organization called “Upward” will provide the materials; 3) will look for outside sponsors – looking at Clemson Extension to do artwork; have secured 70 tickets to a baseball game; 4) the soccer camp will run Monday-Thursday from 8:00-5:00, April 2-6. They are looking for community members to provide lunch for the students. Chairman Priester said attendance would be about 40 to 50, is that the goal. Mr. Espinosa said they want to charge \$10 per child and it may be the same child for both camps. Ms. Smith asked about the liability. Mr. Espinosa said “Upward” provides insurance forms and waivers.

Second Request: they will provide a summer camp opportunity that will not compete with the District’s summer school. Chairman Priester asked about the \$10 cost to the student for the 1st camp, what is the cost for this camp. Mr. Espinosa said he liked the idea of some cost so parents and students have ownership. They are looking at complete volunteers for the camp. The main cost depends on the facility use fee. He looked at grants and has bounced ideas about this to various people. The camp may include educational enrichments also. Mr. Hall moved to approve the facility use for the spring break soccer camp. Mr. Cave seconded. The motion was approved by all. Chairman Priester said the summer camp will be discussed at a later time.

CONSENT AGENDA items

Discipline Reports – For information only. Mr. Hall said he would like to see a report on PBIS at the next Board Meeting. How is it working and its effect?

SUPERINTENDENT’S OFFICE

Allendale-Fairfax Middle School Improvement Status – Mr. Holiday, Principal, presented a Power Point presentation – information in Board packets. Mr. Holiday outlined: 1) it is going to be a big task, but he is confident they can improve AFMS; 2) the last 10 years AFMS has been an underperforming school; 3) met 6 of 13 objectives based on AYP – the student attendance rate is 93.7, the State goal is 94.4%; 4) students have little background knowledge that relates to material used in the classroom; 5) teachers need more ongoing development. Staff turnover is an issue; 6) school climate for the learning and social/physical environment; 7) 2010-2011 averaged about 134 referrals per month and this number has increased, but they are

working on student and teacher relationships, SFA structure which deals with PBIS; 8) the goals include increasing student achievement as measured by PASS scores by 10%; increase student attendance rate and decrease referrals; schedule sustained ongoing professional development; make students think conceptually and make instruction relevant and include teachers and community as equal stakeholders to contribute to the solution. A parent liaison has been hired by the District.

Ms. Smith said one session in Myrtle Beach focused on: 1) the implementation of the book – “7 Habits of High Effective People”; 2) change the attitude of the child and the child can better learn; 3) use the basketball players to serve as mentors; 4) in one district on professional development days they come up with 6 things they are going to work on the whole year; 5) she spoke with a former teacher from the District who said they would get all the science teachers together from every grade and get to know what the child learned in the past. At the high school level students who are in study hall, students who are doing well – why can’t they be mentors to other students?

APPROVALS:

Allendale County Emergency Management Proposed Exercise – Wednesday, August 15, 2012 – Ms. Gidget Stanley, Director. In Allendale County they need to do a school shooting exercise. The exercise would test communication, accountability and procedures in the District. Use the faculty and staff since the students will not be in school on August 15th. Mr. Hall said your memo stated you met with the principal and superintendent, but you did not meet with the sheriff. Ms. Stanley said the sheriff does not sit in on the writing of the exercise, he is aware of what is going on and he will be tested. They are looking at holding the exercise from 8:00-12:00 noon. The only resource needed from the school is the players for the exercise. It takes time to plan this exercise. She can get with the State Office and meet with the hospital to get things planned. Mr. Cave said with the importance of such a program and planning necessary the Board should take action tonight. He moved to approve the request. Mr. Hall seconded. Ms. Smith asked Dr. McClain will the District be back in school on August 15th. Dr. McClain said the day is not currently in the calendar. The District would fund this ½ day. Ms. Smith asked could this be done on a day when the teachers are in the District. Dr. McClain said they could look at doing this on a staff development day. Chairman Priester said they can vote on approving the process as stated by Mr. Cave since no date was mentioned. The motion was approved by all.

“Draft” Student Transfer Policy – Dr. McClain said this is information that was shared and this will be coming back before the Board with some recommendations.

PERSONNEL REPORT: Ms. Rivers, Personnel Director asked the Board to accept the recommendation made during executive session for the employment of a teacher at AFMS. Mr. Cave moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

Ms. Rivers asked what is the Board's pleasure on the resignation discussed in executive session. Mr. Cave moved to accept the resignation of said teacher. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all. Ms. Smith moved to revoke the certificate of the teacher. Mr. Hall seconded. The motion was approved by all.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Tillotson, Interim Finance Director said the information was included in the Board packets. He highlighted: 1) local tax money came about two weeks ago – \$4.3 million credited to the school district; 2) they are on target for the \$4.9 million in local revenue; 3) provided to the Superintendent the forecast of how the District is going to finish the year ; 4) pulled out last year budget presentation – don't know anything at this point; 5) most of the numbers from the Ways and Means Committee will remain the same according to several people he know, the base student cost may increase – \$2,012 per student; 6) a 2% raise proposed for teachers is being discussed in the House – confusing language on how this will be achieved; 2% increase for all employees will work out to about \$175,000; 7) aiming for 22-1 class size. (K-1st class sizes will be lower) and 8) will schedule a budget work session in early March.

Chairman Priester said the reallocation of funds for the District, are you getting a sense that this will become a reality this year. Mr. Tillotson said he spoke with Len Richardson, SDE who did not have a lot to say about this. The Finance Dept. is going to a conference next week that will discuss this subject. Dr. McClain said they are talking about the proposal put forth by SCASA and this is not population with many districts.

Budget Report by Function – January 1-31, 2012: included in the Board packets.

Budget Changes Report – January 1-31, 2012: included in the Board packets.

NEWSLETTERS

Fairfax Elementary – January/February

Allendale Elementary – Tiger Tales – February

Allendale County Adult Learning Center – February 2012

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCSBA – 2 Days at the Capitol – Wednesday, March 14, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. Columbia – Dr. McClain encouraged members of the community to attend this meeting and let legislators know what they think about what is taking place in the educational arena. Decisions are being made are not friendly toward public education.

Ms. Smith asked about the community meeting in her area. She will get with Dr. McClain about the site and date. Ms. Smith said they are having Town Hall meetings in each district to have roundtable talks. They are going to the public and letting them know what is going on.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.